

**Andrew Jackson to Francis Preston Blair, May 22, 1840,
from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by
John Spencer Bassett.**

class=MsoNormal>TO FRANCIS P. BLAIR.

Hermitage, May 22, 1840.

Private.

My dear sir, It is some time since I have done myself the pleasure of writing you—yr. last letter I have not acknowledged.

I have been looking on the scenes in Congress with regret and great humiliation. How the conduct of the opposition in the present congress have degraded themselves and our national character. It appears to me that their chief object is to bring into contempt our republican system and thereby to destroy it. I trust the good sense of the great body of the people will rebuke them. All the arts of the secrete committee of nine selected by the opposition in Congress with Garland, Bell, Salsonstall and Clark 1 at their head, cannot so far delude the people by their falshoods as to make them believe that Harrison, is either a great general or civilian, or induce them, with all his abolition and high tariff principles etc. etc. to elect him as President.

1 Rice Garland of Louisiana, John Bell of Tennessee, Leverett Saltonstall of Massachusetts, and John C. Clark of New York, M. C.'s.

The only thing that will weaken our party is, that the Baltimore convention did not select a candidate for the vice Presidency that would have united the whole democracy, for it is useless to conceal the fact, that notwithstanding, the high estimation we have for Col.

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Johnsons military prowess and patriotism, in Tennessee and Kentucky his late family connection which has gone abroad, 2 will prevent the whole religious portion of both states to vote against him, and by which means both Tennessee and Kentucky may be lost to the republican party; and unless from a demonstration now by the states that Polk will be sustain[ed] by as many states as will place him free from the geers of the opposition, that if voted for by all he could not be elected, the ground taken against White at last canvass, he will withdraw his name from the canvass, if so, I am afraid we will loose the state. This is my private opinion, and founded on the best authority both in Kentucky and Tennessee. This, when we are fighting the great battle for principle, and for the perpetuation of our republican system is unfortunate and ought not to have been

2 The Democratic nominating convention at Baltimore, May 5, 1840, renominated Van Buren, and named nobody for vice-president. The stories alluded to involved Johnson's alleged relation with a negro mistress.

class=MsoNormal>0086 62 so. I regret to see that Mr. Kendell has resigned, 3 but he will be a host in the Globe.

3 From the office of postmaster general.

Why is it that the republican party lets the subtreasury bill sleep upon the table. The present is the propitious moment to have it passed into a law. The Banks are now bad odour, and this law will add to the vallue of our currency at once by the confidence it will introduce in the community. The late report of the Secretary of the Treasury with Col. Bentons speech in expla[na]tion has prostrated the cry of the opposition of extravagance in the administration. it was a well timed hit, Benton deserves a medal for it—present him my kind salutations.

Give my kind regards to your amiable Lady and family, and to Mr. Kendell and his, with my assurance that all my influence shall be used to promote his interest. when will we have

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the pleasure of seeing you and family at the Hermitage. I am quite sick, write fearful that I may soon be unable to write you.

Andrew and Sarah salutes you and your family. yr. friend,